

**STATEMENT OF
JESSICA ROSENWORCEL
NOMINEE TO BE COMMISSIONER
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
BEFORE THE
UNITED STATES SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION
JULY 19, 2017**

Good morning, Chairman Thune, Ranking Member Nelson, and Members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I am honored to have been re-nominated by the President to serve as Commissioner at the Federal Communications Commission.

I would like to begin by introducing my family. Sitting behind me is my husband of seventeen years, Mark Bailen. Sitting beside him is our son, Emmett Joseph, who is seven years old. His ten-year-old sister, Caroline Frances, could not be here today and sends her regrets because she is away at camp.

As you may know, I previously had the honor of serving as Commissioner. But I stepped down from this position at the start of the year—and I headed home. Since that time I have had the sweet privilege of attending every school performance and every little league game. I have had the opportunity to reacquaint myself with the world through my children's eyes and experience as digital natives.

It's trite, but true, that a little distance provides perspective. In my time away, one thing has become abundantly clear: The future belongs to the connected. No matter who you are or where you live in this country, you need access to modern communications for a fair shot at 21st century success. The choices we make today about communications technology, infrastructure, and access are an inheritance for the next generation. How we grapple now with the disrupting and democratizing effects of digitization will play no small role in determining American success in the future.

The stakes are high, so a little humility helps. That is why I believe that the work of the Commission must emphasize what is most time-tested and enduring. To this end, I believe the work of the Commission must be guided by four essential values that have informed communications law in this country for decades.

First, public safety. Our networks must be available when the unthinkable occurs and we need them most.

Second, universal access. We need policies that foster deployment in urban areas, rural areas, and everything in between.

Third, competition. Competition is the best way to increase innovation and lower prices.

Fourth, consumer protection. Communications services are multiplying in our economy and in their importance in our daily lives. But the marketplace can be bewildering to navigate. So we should always be on the lookout for ways to help consumers make good choices.

These values derive from the law and informed my work at the Commission in the past. This includes my efforts to strengthen 911 service, based on input from visits with first responders across the country. It also includes my efforts to increase access to broadband in our schools and enhance opportunities for digital age education. Furthermore, I am proud to have worked on spectrum policies—for licensed and unlicensed airwaves—that have made this country’s wireless markets competitive, innovative, and strong.

However, there is more work to be done—to bring communications policy into the future. That includes work following the world’s first spectrum incentive auctions, managing the impact of this transition on local broadcasters, and building on our wireless success with the next generation of mobile service—known as 5G. It requires new ideas to spur competition, spark entrepreneurship, incentivize the deployment of new networks, and help bring the benefits of modern communications to everyone, everywhere across the country.

If re-confirmed, I look forward to working on what lies ahead with the individuals here with me today and all others at the Commission.

If re-confirmed, I will continue to be guided by the fundamental values in the law.

If re-confirmed, I will continue to respect the priorities of this Committee. I also pledge to listen to you, those with business before the Commission—and above all the American people.

In closing, Chairman Thune, Ranking Member Nelson, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I look forward to answering your questions.